

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 171725Z SEP 76 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4070

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2469

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LUSAKA

1. STATE HOUSE (PETER KASANDA) JUST CALLED WITH A MESSAGE FROM PRES KAUNDA AT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP MEETING AT MULUNGUSHI THAT FOR UNSPECIFIED REASONS THEY HAVE HAD TO POSTPONE THE OPENING OF THE PARTY COUNCIL FROM SUNDAY THE 19TH TO MONDAY THE 20TH. CONSEQUENTLY THE PRESIDENT WILL BE FULLY ENGAGED MONDAY MORNING FROM 9 A.M. ON. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY SUNDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING INSTEAD OF MONDAY.

2. IF BECAUSE OF THE PROGRAM IN PRETORIA THIS TIMING IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, WE WILL NEED TO INFORM THE ZAMBIANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE ABOVE TIMING IS A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM THEM.

3. COMMENT. WE ARE PUZZLED AT WHY PRES KAUNDA OR ONE OF HIS ADVISORS FAILED TO INFORM THE SECRETARY OR MEMBERS OF THE PARTY OF THE CHANGE IN THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL FROM SEPT 19 TO SEPT 20 ON FRIDAY MORNING BEFORE HE LEFT. SINCE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHANGE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ZAMBIA TIMES WHICH APPEARED LATE THAT MORNING,

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THE ZAMBIANS UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY KNEW OF IT. WE BELIEVE

THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION FOR THE POSTPONEMENT IS RELATED TO INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. KAUNDA HAS SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE DISSATISFACTION OF URBAN ELITE GROUPS WITH SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS (EDUCATION AND MEDICAL REFORMS) AND ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS. HE IS ALSO FACED WITH CONTINUING POLITICAL OPPOSITION BASED ON TRIBAL RIVALRY. FROM HIS REMARKS TO THE SECRETARY, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT DISSATISFACTION OF LOWER ECHELON PARTY MEMBERS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS RELATED IN SOME WAY TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND INITIATIVE BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK IT LESS LIKELY.

LOW

SECRET

NNN

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